United Nations A/72/PV.103

# General Assembly

Seventy-second session

*Official Records*

**103**rd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 27 June 2018, 10 a.m.
New York

*President*: Mr. Lajčák ..... (Slovakia)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 118** (*continued*)

**The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

**Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/840)**

**Draft resolution (A/72/L.62)**

**Mrs. Baffoe** (Norway): I would like to start by thanking the Permanent Representatives of Jordan and Finland, Ms. Sima Sami Bahous and Mr. Kai Sauer, for their excellent work in co-facilitating the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also be remiss if I failed to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Muaz Mohamad Al-Otoom and Ms. Niina Nyrhinen, who have laboured so hard and guided our discussions so effectively. Yesterday's consensus agreement (see A/72/PV.101) is in large part due to their leadership, professionalism and congeniality.

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism remains intense and continues to evolve. Although substantial progress has been made in Syria and Iraq in reducing the threat posed there by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, it has not been eliminated and continues to mount attacks. The United Nations must play a central role in the collective response to terrorism and in preventing violent extremism. Norway believes that a balanced implementation of the Global Strategy is our best way forward. That includes addressing the root causes and upstream factors of violent extremism, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Norway continues to strongly support the Plan of Action, as it provides a much-needed emphasis on the first and second pillars of the Strategy. Preventing violent extremism entails ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law, and it requires that we address push and pull factors alike. We must ensure that the values of tolerance, pluralism and understanding are embedded in our societies. We must realize the potential of our young people, who are arguably our most important asset in the struggle against terrorism and violent extremism.

Civil-society organizations are powerful counterweights to violent extremist movements. Moreover, they offer a space for constructive engagement between society and State. A whole-of-society approach to preventing violent extremism requires careful attention to human rights and should include civil society at the local level as a key partner and stakeholder. Women's experience and leadership skills must be recognized and utilized. As Norway's Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, has repeatedly recalled, it is essential that we address the gender dimensions of violent extremism.

As the co-host, together with Jordan, of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, Norway is particularly pleased to see that policies seeking to prevent violent extremism are now a core priority of Member States and across the United Nations. Member States have the primary responsibility for implementing measures to prevent violent extremism

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and counter terrorism, and I would like to highlight some of the efforts that Norway has undertaken since the last review.

On 23 and 24 May, in Oslo, Norway hosted a global high-level meeting on preventing violent extremism, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. We have strengthened our whole-of-society approach by highlighting the role of women, young people and civil society in reintegration and rehabilitation. We have focused on research-based analysis as a foundation for policy development. As part of our prison and probation services, we have established a mentoring programme for prisoners serving sentences for terrorism in order to prepare them for reintegration into society when released. Finally, the police have increased their online presence with a view to preventing crime in general and radicalization and violent extremism in particular.

Norway is pleased to note the cross-regional support for the agenda on preventing violent extremism, as reflected in resolution 72/284. We are also very appreciative of the way in which the Office of Counter-Terrorism has made preventing violent extremism an integral part of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. In addition, several Member States and regional organizations have already adopted or are developing plans of action to prevent violent extremism, with the support of the United Nations. We are also pleased to note that the resolution now explicitly recognizes the relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Security and development are always mutually reinforcing. Moreover, the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has made it clear that the Strategy requires us to ensure respect for human rights and international law, partner with civil society and local communities, empower our youth and ensure full and complete gender equality. Those are all critical principles that we have a collective responsibility to respect and implement.

In closing, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his leadership and commitment to improving the ability of the United Nations to counter terrorism and violent extremism. We look forward to working with him, as well as Member States, as we continue our efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

**Mr. Horváth** (Hungary): I am pleased to make a brief statement on behalf of Hungary concerning the consensus adoption of resolution 72/284, on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Hungary fully shares and aligns itself with the key elements in the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union (see A/72/PV.102).

Hungary is grateful for the Secretary-General's report (A/72/840) on the progress of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides a solid starting point for the subsequent substantial debate. We commend the sensitive and tireless efforts of the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of the Kingdom of Jordan and Finland, and their excellent teams, producing a sophisticated compromise that lays the groundwork for the balanced implementation of the Strategy for the next two years.

This year's resolution is particularly important for two reasons. First, it was adopted by consensus at a significant juncture when important developments are taking place in the global fight against terrorism, particularly in conflict zones in the Middle East; and secondly, because it also includes several current and perspective measures whose implementation will determine the outcome of the fight against terrorism, which constitutes not merely a challenge but a continuing major security risk for the entire global community.

The moral responsibility of all the States Members of the United Nations is to eliminate radicalization and the violent extremism leading to it once and for all, as well as to contribute to tackling the root causes of both international and domestic terrorism. We may have differing notions regarding many aspects of our joint fight against terrorism, but our final message is robust and identical — the terrorists cannot win. In that spirit, although Hungary has not been exposed to or targeted by terrorism, we share that moral responsibility and contribute tangibly in many ways to the success of our shared objective. The United Nations, and consequently the just-reviewed Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, has been and remains the cornerstone of a multilateral, whole-of-society, all-of-United Nations, comprehensive approach. If we are wondering how serious our intention to implement the Strategy is, we need only recall that immediately following the sixth review, the first-ever high-level conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of Member States will begin to translate the outcome of the review into practical cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to affirm that Hungary fully supported the adoption of the review resolution,

and is ready and committed to working with all the relevant bodies of the United Nations family, including especially the Office of Counter-Terrorism, as well as with all Member States, to defeat terrorism.

**Mr. Akhinzhanov** (Kazakhstan): The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting and to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Jordan and Finland and their able teams for facilitating the informal consultations on the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also welcome the latest report (A/72/840) of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations in implementing the Strategy, and thank him for his invitation to Member States to participate in the first United Nations high-level conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of Member States, to be held here in New York on 28 and 29 June, which will be an excellent opportunity to advance our common counter-terrorism agenda and forge new partnerships. We commend him for his excellent and very relevant and concrete proposal to establish a global network of national counter-terrorism coordinators under the auspices of the United Nations.

We fully align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/72/PV.101), and would like to add a few words in our national capacity.

The fight against terrorism requires a long-term and comprehensive approach, with the active participation and cooperation of Member States at all levels and in multidisciplinary dimensions. Regional and international networking is important to ensuring national capacity-building in various interrelated governmental sectors so as to successfully implement the Strategy. That is why, along with enhanced cooperation with the United Nations, Kazakhstan actively promotes the same shared goals with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Central Asia became the first region to adopt a joint action plan for implementing the landmark Global Strategy. Over the past five years, the countries of the region, with the assistance of the United Nations, have achieved much in terms both of preventing and countering terrorism. They have enhanced their ability to fight terrorism and contributed to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the area.

Today the numbers of terrorism sympathizers motivated by propaganda promoted by terrorist organizations are constantly increasing. We must ensure that sophisticated modern technologies, the Internet and social networking outlets are not used by terrorist organizations to recruit young people on a global scale. That trend attests to the vital need to carefully examine how to achieve a true balance between individuals' rights and responsibilities in society while adopting effective measures to prevent and suppress terrorism in all its manifestations. We believe that the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and other United Nations counter-terrorism structures should consider conducting training sessions on how to plan and develop propaganda campaigns and disseminate counter-terrorism messages using modern techniques and technologies. That is why Kazakhstan has contributed to the project entitled "Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia". We are confident that our contribution will be used effectively and directly for the needs of Central Asia.

Our international and regional initiatives reinforce our efforts at the national level to address the risks of extremism and terrorism and prevent their manifestation in any form. The many measures include legislative and practical steps to ensure more rigorous punishments for terrorist and extremist activities. Taking into account the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the relevant Security Council resolutions and other countries' best practices, we have adopted a State programme on countering religious extremism and terrorism for the period 2018-2022. Its main goal is to ensure the safety of the people, the State and society through improved measures to prevent this scourge and minimize and eliminate its consequences. That is why it also envisages an active role for the non-governmental sector.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Kazakhstan's commitment, as a responsible member of the international community and a participant in all major international counter-terrorism tools, to working together with the United Nations family to eliminate this scourge.

**Mr. Prasad** (Fiji): I thank the President for convening this debate on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and for this opportunity to share Fiji's views on the subject.

Our comments this morning are aligned with the statement delivered yesterday by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/72/PV.101).

I would like to express Fiji's appreciation and recognition to the Permanent Representatives of Finland and Jordan and their teams for their tireless efforts, professionalism and inclusiveness in facilitating the sixth review process. It is thanks to their stewardship that we have taken this big step forward.

The Assembly's consensus adoption yesterday of resolution 72/284 speaks to our collective determination to confront terrorism. When the Assembly unanimously adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, Fiji called for a holistic and inclusive approach to counter-terrorism, and this resolution confirms that approach. Fiji is firmly committed to countering terrorism in all its forms. Terrorism threatens peace and security internationally, regionally and nationally. It affects us all. Fiji supports United Nations efforts by deploying Fijian peacekeepers in volatile regions across the world. The purpose of some of those deployments is to uphold peace and provide security for communities affected by acts associated directly or indirectly with terrorism. Fiji's commitment to such United Nations efforts is steadfast and time-tested.

The successful implementation of the resolution and the Strategy rests with us. We are required to work together. Countering terrorism starts with countering the financial networks that fund terrorism. The globalization of financial support for terrorism is a challenge of our times. The proceeds from illegal fishing on the high seas, from the production and supply chains of illicit drugs and from complex money-laundering webs and the emergence of new technology currencies present newer challenges. We must work to better understand how such finance networks operate and whether they affect global terrorism.

We Member States have given ourselves the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the defining framework for our aspirations. Extremism feeds off and is fuelled by failures across several of our SDG aspirations, especially those related to poverty, hunger and inequality. Our shared commitment to achieving the SDGs comes up against the stark reality of significant financing gaps. National efforts to confront terrorism displace effort, energy and resources away from achieving our SDGs. The resolution will help us rebalance that, because by tackling terrorism cohesively, we promote peace and security, which are the fundamental building blocks for achieving all our SDGs.

The multilateralization of terrorism over the past decades underlines the importance of multilateralism in dealing with the defining challenges of our times — that is, confronting extremism and terrorism and promoting peace and security, which provide the building blocks for achieving all our SDGs, including those related to climate change and the oceans. Fiji reaffirms and firmly supports resolution 72/284.

**Mr. Atlassi** (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the co-facilitators, the Ambassadors of Jordan and Finland, as well as their teams, for the efforts they have made since the beginning of negotiations on the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My delegation would also like to congratulate them on their success in reconciling the positions of Member States so that we could ultimately agree on a consensus text. The delegation of Morocco participated in the negotiations in a realistic and constructive spirit and, together with the United States of America, chaired the group discussing the paragraphs on foreign terrorist fighters in an effort to bring our views closer together. We welcome the adoption of resolution 72/284 after the long negotiations on a consensus text, thereby affirming the work of the sixth meeting to review the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

While not all the proposals were retained, we were able to agree on what does unite us. The Assembly's adoption of the resolution by consensus sends a strong signal to terrorists that the international community is united and stands together to combat terrorism and violent extremism. Morocco supports the implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The adoption in September 2006 of the Strategy, through Assembly resolution 60/288, was an appropriate response on the part of the international community to terrorism. It is a living document that must be updated every two years. In an unfortunate turn of events in 2014, the world was in upheaval as terrorist groups

gained control of major territories in Iraq, Syria, Mali, Somalia and so forth, thereby undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of those States and threatening others. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was proclaimed.

Morocco therefore considers respect for States' sovereignty and territorial integrity particularly important and remains dedicated to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Moreover, the world is seeing an unprecedented proliferation of terrorist groups affiliated with Da'esh and Al-Qaida. Such groups lack any legitimacy in terms of the Islamic religion and have nothing to do with the principles of Islam. Their ideology is one of death, obscurantism and a rejection of all the values shared by humankind. The Kingdom of Morocco condemns terrorism in all its forms and emphasizes that nothing can justify a terrorist act. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

The Kingdom of Morocco shares the analysis of the Secretary-General in his report on the implementation of the Strategy (A/72/840), which urges us to work together and join our efforts in a non-political approach to confronting the scourge of terrorism and all the conditions that enable it to continue, such as financing and other kinds of support. Despite the defeat of ISIL in Iraq and Syria and other countries, its threat continues through its affiliate groups. We now have to consider the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, including women and children, as an intensification of the terrorist threat that demands an urgent multilateral response in order to tackle all the repercussions of their return, strengthening our border security, international cooperation and information exchange, in accordance with the Strategy and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Terrorists continue to exploit technological advances, the Internet, the media and social networks in order to spread their propaganda and attract new recruits, demanding their support in carrying out less sophisticated attacks in order to maximize the numbers of their victims and instil fear. To deal with that, we need greater vigilance, cooperation and sharing of information. In addition, we should immediately address the lack of cooperation at the regional, subregional and international levels, considering the increasingly transnational and multifaceted nature of transborder crime and trafficking of all kinds. We need to launch a new era of collaboration in order to respond comprehensively in the fight against terrorism and the violent extremism that leads to terrorism.

Morocco supports the high-level conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of Member States, to be held over the next two days at United Nations Headquarters in New York, which is a step towards building a new cooperative and multilateral partnership and fostering a non-political approach to combating terrorism. Its theme is "Strengthening international cooperation to combat the evolving threat of terrorism", and it is therefore part of the continuing call for international cooperation.

The United Nations must play a key role in developing a legal framework for combating terrorism. That being said, other international forums, such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which Morocco co-chairs with the Netherlands, have adopted memorandums on best practices for combating terrorism, such as the Forum's The Hague-Marrakech memorandum. Member States have also developed their own successful national strategies that could be shared with other Member States at their request, in bilateral formats, with the help of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

The Kingdom of Morocco has developed a national strategy using a coherent and comprehensive approach aimed at safeguarding, preventing and taking action in line with the provisions of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions. We base the strategy on, first, security governance, the implementation of a legal framework for combating terrorism, the adoption of new laws and security oversight; secondly, human development; and thirdly, the reform of religious services, particularly through the establishment of a scholarly authority responsible for interpreting the Qur'an and the Hadith. The training of young preachers, male and female, in the precepts of Islam — that is, the values of dialogue, tolerance, coexistence and mutual respect — is an intrinsic part of the Muslim religion. We have also launched a deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration programme for foreign terrorist fighters. The Mohammed VI Institute opened in 2015 to provide training for young imams, and a number of African and European countries have signed bilateral agreements with Morocco for the training of their imams.

The establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is in line with the desires of Member States and resulted from the fifth review meeting. Morocco is a firm supporter of the Office in its mandate to strengthen the capacities of Member States at their request. It should be equipped to respond properly to challenges with stable, predictable and diverse resources, the only way to guarantee a successful outcome. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, as part of the Office, should also be strengthened and supported with funding from the United Nations regular budget in order to ensure that its work continues uninterrupted. The Office, through the Centre, should help Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Finally, Morocco will spare no effort in working with United Nations bodies and Member States to improve the implementation of the Strategy and combat terrorism and violent extremism.

**The Acting President**: I now give the floor to the observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

**Ms. Torsney** (Inter-Parliamentary Union): The engagement of parliaments and parliamentarians is key to ensuring effective outcomes for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Strong parliaments that express the will of the people, with representation from every sector of society, can help to reduce marginalization and discrimination. Parliaments are responsible for enacting laws and setting budgets for national action. They must ensure that laws and criminal justice measures are implemented effectively, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law and avoiding the temptation of undemocratic responses, which could further fuel violent extremism.

Since 1996, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has adopted 12 resolutions relating to terrorism, all of which highlight the need for parliaments to support the implementation of United Nations counter-terrorism resolutions and strategies. In that regard, in 2015 the IPU and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) agreed to work together to strengthen the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

In October 2017, at its 137th Assembly, the IPU Governing Council endorsed the establishment of a high-level advisory group on countering terrorism and violent extremism. The group is composed of high-level parliamentarians, experts in the field who will guide the IPU-UNODC joint programme. The programme will support parliaments in implementing international counter-terrorism instruments and resolutions and provide members of parliament and parliamentary staff with tools and training, focusing on the rule of law and human rights. It will promote cooperation among parliamentary committees and facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned. The programme seeks to facilitate the incorporation of international resolutions into domestic legislation and promote regional parliamentary cooperation. It will establish a web-based legislative database to serve as a repository for relevant legislation and a forum for information exchange.

The IPU-UNODC joint secretariat is working with the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism to broaden the impact of its parliamentary programme on global efforts to counter terrorism. The IPU looks forward to advancing this fruitful cooperation with the United Nations, bridging the implementation gaps and tackling the scourge of terrorism.

**The Acting President**: I now give the floor to the observer of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

**Ms. Ostrauskaite** (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe): At the outset, I would like to thank the President for inviting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to share its perspective on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. As the largest regional organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE implements the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the regional level. We base our actions on a comprehensive mandate agreed to by 57 participating States. The OSCE secretariat, field operations and institutions assist participating States in developing comprehensive, nuanced and coordinated responses to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Building capacity is vital to building resilient societies and States. In line with our overarching mandate to prevent and counter the violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, our flagship initiative, "Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism", empowers young people, women and community leaders to speak out and mobilize others to help fight violent extremism at the local level. Our efforts are based on a whole-of-society approach. It

is crucial to involve and empower civil society, as its members usually have better access to communities at risk and a better understanding of the problems that such communities face.

The OSCE is currently developing a series of guidelines and handbooks. Their subjects range from engaging civil society in preventing and countering violent extremism to early interventions, implementing gender-sensitive operational approaches, countering terrorism and developing national strategies, action plans and policies. The series will serve as a user-friendly reference for practitioners and policymakers. The handbooks are tailored to the needs of different subregions, including South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

We have a wide-ranging programme on countering the financing of terrorism that we have developed together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The main concept behind our work is to help States follow the money, both where it is going and where it has come from. We train national experts in investigation and analysis and in how to disrupt such illicit financial flows using Security Council sanctions as well as national methods. The training is tailored to each country, depending on the latest reporting from the Financial Action Task Force.

The OSCE is also conducting training on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes for law-enforcement, judiciary and media professionals. We hope to collaborate more closely with the respective United Nations agencies in this field. To counter the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, the OSCE has three dedicated mobile training teams for identifying potential foreign terrorist fighters at borders. They travel across the OSCE area, training officers in profiling, interviewing and behavioural techniques to prevent the movement of terrorists.

One of our largest training programmes is for front-line and second-line border guards on how to detect fraudulent documents and impostors. That is not enough, however. A border guard may only have between five and 10 seconds to decide whether someone is a terrorist or a criminal. As a result, the OSCE has been assisting States in establishing advance passenger information and passenger-name record systems. Additionally, since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), biometrics are increasingly on our agenda. Terrorists and organized criminals may try to mask their identities by using a fake passport or taking on another identity, but it is a lot harder to fake fingerprints.

Partnerships are crucial to countering terrorism efforts. Joining forces creates synergies and amplifies impact. We welcomed the high-level participation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the UNODC in the most recent OSCE-wide conference on countering terrorism, in Rome, which focused on tackling the reverse flow of foreign terrorist fighters. The conference highlighted the complex nature of the responses required and the need for stronger international and regional cooperation and enhanced coordination.

In order to strengthen our cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the OSCE hopes shortly to sign a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum will serve to enhance our joint planning of technical assistance in preventing violent extremism, countering terrorist financing, promoting rule-of-law responses to terrorism, countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and ensuring critical infrastructure protection.

As the OSCE has adopted an integrative approach to capacity-building in Central Asia, we also look forward to advancing our joint activities with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

In conclusion, let us continue to work together to address the threat of terrorism.

**The Acting President**: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 118?

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.*

United Nations A/72/PV.104

General Assembly
Seventy-second session

Official Records

# 104th plenary meeting
Friday, 29 June 2018, 4 p.m.
New York

*President*: Mr. Lajčák ..... (Slovakia)

*The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 122** (*continued*)

**Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council**

**The President**: Members will recall that, pursuant to decision 71/553 of 19 July 2017, the Assembly continued intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary meetings during the current session.

We have come to the end of another session of intergovernmental negotiations. At our first meeting in February, I called for a credible process that could lead us to a meaningful outcome. Today, I would like to reflect on whether we have achieved that. In doing so, I shall focus on three key areas.

The first is inclusivity and credibility. One is usually linked to the other. I want to start by pointing out the vast range of Member States we have heard from — big and small, developing and developed, from the global South and the global North, countries with different languages, cultures and positions. I believe that it was truly an inclusive process and that its credibility lay in the dialogue. It seemed clear to me that the process is one we still believe in. I am not saying that there was no cynicism or that everyone saw eye to eye, but I heard genuine efforts to understand each other's points. Creative proposals were made across all five key areas, and flexibility was shown as Member States looked for common positions that could move the process along. If there is space for dialogue, progress is possible. I thank you all for maintaining that space.

The second thing I want to reflect on is our outcome. In February, I expressed hope that we would arrive at a meaningful outcome. Now we are here, at our last meeting, and we do have an outcome. It is different from former documents. We did not start from scratch in drafting it. But only you can judge whether it is meaningful or not. It is your product, and you will be the ones to decide upon its significance going forward. All I can say is that I hope we can find a way to build on our work.

Thirdly, I want to comment on the importance of the process, and maybe "importance" is an understatement here, because it does not quite capture the urgency of our task. The process is about the Member States. They drive it, they participate in it and they decide where it goes. But beyond this Hall, the entire world is watching. That is one of the major lessons I have learned as President of the General Assembly. Everywhere I have travelled, from South-East Asia to Africa, I have faced questions about the reform process. What will happen next? When will we see change? What will a new Council look like? Those are not questions for me to answer. Where we go, how we get there and the speed at which we travel — all those matters are up to the Membes.

One thing this experience has shown me is that the United Nations is judged by the performance of its Security Council. That means that everything the Organization does, from humanitarian response to the

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implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, is as stake, because if people lose faith in the United Nations, they will also lose faith in its work, no matter the results on the ground. That could undermine our entire system. The future of the Organization lies in the hands of its Members.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my deep gratitude to our co-Chairs, Ambassador Imnadze and Ambassador Nusseibeh. The level of work required from them and their teams was like taking on a second day job. Yet they carried out their roles with commitment and good humour, while always maintaining the highest level of transparency.

As we close the intergovernmental negotiations session, my final message is this. Throughout everything we do, there are two major elements at stake, and they both begin with the letter "p". The first is process. This is one of the most sensitive international processes going on today. Every word matters. We need to do it right. We cannot steam-roll through it, because only a strong process can have a strong outcome. The second element is people. They are the reason why the United Nations and its Security Council were created. It is people who stand to benefit from what we are doing here, and it is people who stand to lose if we go nowhere. So this is a political process, but it should never be at the expense of people. They are out there — they are watching, and they are counting on us. I thank everyone again, and I wish them luck in the work ahead.

In a letter dated 28 June 2018, I circulated a draft oral decision on this issue.

May I take it that the General Assembly, first, decides to reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council; secondly, also decides to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, as mandated by Assembly decisions 62/557, of 15 September 2008; 63/565 B, of 14 September 2009; 64/568, of 13 September 2010; 65/554, of 12 September 2011; 66/566, of 13 September 2012; 67/561, of 29 August 2013; 68/557, of 8 September 2014; 69/560, of 14 September 2015; 70/559, of 27 July 2016; and 71/553, of 19 July 2017, building on the informal meetings held during its seventy-second session and on the revised elements of commonality and issues for further consideration, circulated on 14 June 2018, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, reflected in the text and its annex circulated on 31 July 2015, and using the elements of convergence circulated on 12 July 2016 and the elements of commonality and issues for further consideration circulated on 27 June 2017 to help inform its future work, while welcoming the active engagement, initiatives and intensive efforts of the President of the General Assembly, and noting with appreciation the active role and concrete efforts of the co-Chairs undertaken in a consultative manner with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council; thirdly, decides to convene the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, if Member States so decide; and, fourthly, decides to include in the agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council"?

*The draft oral decision was adopted* (decision 72/557).

**The President**: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

**Mr. Sumah** (Sierra Leone): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the African Union. In doing so, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your exemplary leadership of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session. I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your unwavering commitment and dedication to the reform of the Security Council. We remain steadfastly committed to a comprehensive and meaningful reform of the Council. We also appreciate the efforts of co-Chairs Ambassador Kaha Imnadze of Georgia and Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates.

Let me take this opportunity to commend the efforts of all Member States in our collective commitment to an inclusive and transparent process, leading to a roll-over decision adopted by consensus. The Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government of the African Union has joined this consensus in the spirit of preserving unity and mutual trust among the membership and of

moving forward the reform of the Security Council, in conformity with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

We take note of the efforts of the co-Chairs to integrate the Common African Position into the final revision of the elements of commonality and issues for further consideration paper. However, we are concerned that the document does not adequately and accurately reflect the Common African Position. We hope that the documents rolled over to the Assembly's seventy-third session will be built upon in a transparent manner through a membership-driven process that will ensure the accurate reflection of our position on all five clusters of the intergovernmental negotiations.

We had also called for the harmonization of all documents rolled over from the sixty-ninth, seventieth and seventy-first sessions, which proved to be difficult for the co-Chairs to achieve. Going forward, however, we will continue to work with all Member States with a view to achieving the much-needed progress on the reform of the Security Council. We remain committed to a comprehensive reform of the Security Council on the basis of all five clusters outlined in decision 62/557 and to the intergovernmental negotiations process in good faith and with mutual trust.

Let me conclude by thanking all Member States that came out openly to unequivocally support the Common African Position espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. We look forward to working with the Assembly to build on the gains made in favour of the Common African Position. We hope that those Member States, especially countries friendly to Africa, will join in support of redressing the historical injustice done to the African continent and its people.

**Ms. King** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the L.69 group — a diverse group of countries made up largely of small States from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific that are united by the common cause of achieving lasting and comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

We appreciate your opening remarks and your efforts, Mr. President, in organizing today's meeting and for the swift adoption today of decision 72/557, on the roll-over of our work this year. We would like to thank you for your leadership and stewardship of the process and for your guidance to the co-Chairs.

We congratulate the co-Chairs on providing Member States with opportunities for substantive and interactive discussions in this session, which took place in a frank and cordial atmosphere. We would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates and Ambassador Kaha Imnadze of Georgia for their tireless efforts during this session in facilitating our discussions in the intergovernmental negotiations and in revising the Elements of Commonalities and Issues for Further Consideration paper in a Member-States-driven process. The document we adopted today is an important contribution of the co-Chairs to this process, based on the active participation of Member States over several meetings. It has the full support of our group and, in our view, the entire membership.

Nevertheless, we are ending the session with mixed feelings. We began this round of deliberations with the positive development of attempting to harmonize and build on the work of the previous three years and the noble quest to establish a credible process. However, we did not quite achieve what we set out to do. Despite overwhelming support for attribution and the reflection of the Common African Position in the commonalities section of the paper, we did not see the inclusion of those requests in the final revised elements of commonalities and issues for further consideration paper. We also asked for an extension of the timeline of this session. Yet here we are today, ending the session two and a half months before the end of this year's session of the General Assembly.

Our work must continue in the next session. We thank you, Mr. President, for your decision and for highlighting that we need to build on the work done in this one. We believe that to be a positive development that breaks from the repetitive copy-and-paste roll-over decisions that we have seen in sessions past. However, we are disappointed to see that the work of the seventieth and seventy-first sessions is still reflected in the decision. The documents generated in those sessions were completely incorporated in this year's document. Why do we have that repetition? What does "build on" really mean? Will that part of the decision be redundant, as is the reference to the Open-ended Working Group? We do need to reflect on those questions and contemplate the answers honestly if our quest is indeed to establish a credible process with meaningful progress.

As we close another session of deliberations, we wish to remind the Assembly that in 1979, just 14 years after the first expansion of the Security Council, a request for a second expansion of the Council was made to the General Assembly. The process for consideration in the Assembly of the agenda item relating to Security Council reform finally began in 1992.

To mark the twenty-fifth year of the consideration of this agenda item by the Assembly, the L.69 group decided to embark on a commemorative project to collect as many documents as possible on the issue of Security Council reform in a book, entitled *Handbook on Security Council Reform: 25 Years of Deliberations*. That was a mammoth undertaking. We have also collected on a USB drive supplemental material that, because of its sheer volume, could not be placed in the handbook. That exercise underscored to our young representatives who worked on the project the depth and breadth of the discussions that have already taken place over the past 25 years and the time spent. The L.69 group hopes that the *Handbook* will be a useful contribution to Member States and to our ongoing deliberations on this crucial issue.

We look to the seventy-third session with anticipation and with hope that we can build on the work done in this session, even as we continue our quest for a still-more-credible process, now ever mindful of time spent, documents created and costs incurred over the past 25 years.

**Mr. Vieira** (Brazil): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the members of the group of four (G-4): Germany, India, Japan, and my own country, Brazil.

First, allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership in the process of Security Council reform during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. You have made your commitment to this task clear since the beginning. I also would like to thank the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates and Ambassador Kaha Imnadze of Georgia, for their hard work in guiding us during our meetings this year.

As we all know, during this session the co-Chairs elaborated a document called "Revised elements of commonality and issues for further consideration", based on the past three outcome papers of the intergovernmental negotiations and interventions made from the floor. Despite all the efforts in that harmonization exercise, the outcome of the intergovernmental negotiations during this session falls short of our expectations.

We were hoping for more progress this year because we believe that reform of the Security Council is long overdue and the world cannot afford further delays. More specifically, we were sincerely expecting the final version of the document to include more of the proposals made by different groups, including our own, the G-4. Some of those suggestions clearly received overwhelming support from Member States but even so were not taken into account.

Among other points, we believe that the document should have included the identification of countries supporting the various options contained in the text — or the "attribution of names", as we called it. An overwhelming majority asked for that, and we had the widest possible support for that measure of transparency. Moreover, the reference to the African Common Position still needs to be accurately and adequately reflected. Furthermore, the G-4 continues to believe that restructuring the document using the five main clusters of the intergovernmental negotiations as its basic axis will contribute to more clarity. Allow me to recall that we were able to completely subsume into it the outcome documents produced in 2016 by Ambassador Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg — as the elements of convergence paper — and in 2017 by Ambassador Ion Jinga of Romania and Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari of Tunisia — as the elements of commonality and issues for further consideration paper.

The revised elements of commonality and issues for further consideration are far from perfect, as I mentioned before. A lot was left unfinished. Clearly, that paper requires more work, and we will be ready to begin that work at the start of the next session. However, the co-Chairs were able to guide us to a document that indeed contains some improvements when compared to last year's outcome document. Having said that, we also want to acknowledge that a large number of countries suggested changes to the paper and shaped that document. The paper therefore belongs to all of us — the Member States.

What we should guarantee now is the continuity of our efforts. The roll-over decision we just adopted (decision 72/557) leads us forward. We have agreed to build on the revised elements of commonality and

issues for further consideration and on the framework document prepared during the sixty-ninth session by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray.

During the next session of the General Assembly, we will need to continue advancing the process and concentrate on improving this year's revised document. Our objective is precise. We should continue harmonizing and updating the paper so as to move towards our goal of achieving text-based negotiations to expeditiously reform the Security Council. After 25 years of discussion on Security Council reform and 10 years of the intergovernmental negotiations themselves, we cannot afford to witness during the next session the same stagnation that we have seen for years. We should break the cycle and begin real negotiations. The credibility of the intergovernmental negotiations process and the United Nations as a whole is at stake.

**Mr. Alotaibi** (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

At the outset, allow me to express the Group's appreciation to you, Sir, for focusing during your presidency of the General Assembly on one of the most important items on our agenda, "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council". I would also like to thank the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassador Kaha Imnadze of Georgia and Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates, for their appreciated efforts to bring together different points of view of various States and groups during the negotiations.

The Group of Arab States believes that the paper reflects the progress made by Member States during the current session, and clarifies many elements of commonality between the positions taken by the States and various groups pertaining to the five issues of negotiation. At the same time, it refers to the presence of substantial divergent views requiring the continued dialogue among Member States during subsequent sessions to find common ground. In that regard, I would like to emphasize that, as stated in decision 62/557, the positions and proposals of the Member States are the basis for the negotiation process.

The Group of Arab States congratulates you, Mr. President, on the adoption by consensus of decision 72/557. However, I underscore once again that the Group is keen to see any step taken in the intergovernmental negotiations enjoy the greatest possible level of political acceptance, thereby allowing Member States to continue to move forward so as to ensure a comprehensive and equitable reform of the Security Council.

I would like to emphasize that the Arab position calls for maintaining cohesion among the general membership and for not discrediting the intergovernmental negotiations by imposing steps that do not enjoy consensus among Member States. Following the adoption of today's decision, the Group of Arab States looks forward to continuing the deliberations during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in order to build on the achievements of previous sessions.

In conclusion, the Group of Arab States renews its commitment to participating effectively and constructively in the process and to working with all other Member States towards finding common ground leading to a solution that enjoys consensus with regard to a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, in order to meet the aspirations of all Member States.

**Mr. Lambertini** (Italy): On behalf of the Uniting for Consensus group, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. I would also like to thank the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassadors Nusseibeh and Imnadze, for their efforts.

We have just agreed to continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, building on the results of the informal meetings held during the current session of work. Among those results, discussions among the membership allowed the co-Chairs to revise the elements of commonality and the issues that deserve further consideration, which were compiled in the document of last year's co-Chairs.

We welcome the document's evolution — what is now the revised elements paper — as a further step towards consensual reform. The revised elements certainly represent a new building block of the reform process. At the same time, they continue to be a work in progress that Member States might or might not decide to use during the next stage of the intergovernmental negotiations. Much of that decision will depend upon the ability of the future intergovernmental negotiations Chairs to preserve the consensual nature of the document.

Our reform must be built upon solid foundations — elements that are truly shared by all Member States. We cannot afford to leave any room for ambiguous language in the reform process and its related documents. There are neither linguistic or procedural shortcuts to Security Council reform, and our experience has shown that any attempt in that direction only results in pulling us further from our goal. Therefore, the United for Consensus group will pursue its work to ensure that the bedrock of a reformed Council remains genuinely consensual, as mandated by decision 62/557.

During the latest intergovernmental negotiations meeting, on 7 June, focusing on how to best advance the negotiations, the Uniting for Consensus group recalled that the prerequisites for tangible progress towards an early Security Council reform are political will, flexibility and a spirit of compromise. Those elements are of the utmost importance to overcoming what all evidence shows to be the obstacle to reform, the only truly contentious aspect hindering our advancement in the reform process — the proposal by some to increase the number of permanent seats.

We are convinced that there is common ground on which to make a collective effort to finally unlock the reform process. Political will, flexibility and a spirit of compromise can lead the General Assembly to the consensual and sustainable reform of the Security Council that we have been striving for. The Uniting for Consensus group is looking forward to engaging in future negotiations and building on those crucial elements, hoping that they will help inform our future work, with the sincere conviction that Security Council reform remains possible.

Allow me several final words, as this will be my final intergovernmental negotiations meeting after five years. Through your person, Sir, I would like to thank all the Presidents of the General Assembly with whom I had the honour to work. Through Ambassadors Nusseibeh and Imnadze, I thank all the co-facilitators with whom I had the honour to work. I would like to thank every colleague independently according to their individual position, constituency, aspirations and ideas. Sometimes we had very strong and hard, but always very honest discussions. Some here might find it hard to believe that the Italian Permanent Representative and Deputy Permanent Representative will be leaving in the next few days or weeks. Consider that an expression of the Italian way of life, our capacity to organize the timing. Although some Italians are leaving, Italy remains firmly here, convinced and involved in this exercise, trying to find the only possible solution — the consensual one.

**Mr. Ten-Pow** (Guyana): I have the distinct honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) following the adoption of decision 72/557 to roll over to the Assembly's seventy-third session consideration of the item on "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council".

As we conclude this session's intergovernmental negotiations, CARICOM wishes first of all to express its deep appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your commitment to reform of the Council and for your active engagement in the process. Throughout the year, you kept your door open for consultations with all stakeholders. CARICOM — a community of mostly small island developing States that attach the greatest importance to strengthening the rule of law in international relations and, by extension, of the organs, like the Security Council, that underpin the rule-of-law architecture — commends you for the leadership that you have shown on this important question of Council reform.

CARICOM also wishes to thank the two co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations of the seventy-second session, Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh and Ambassador Kaha Imnadze. They have done an outstanding job, and we wish to place on record our deep appreciation for the active role they played and the concrete efforts they made, always in a consultative and transparent manner with a view to an early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

CARICOM notes with satisfaction that, going forward, the intergovernmental negotiations will build on the series of informal meetings held during the Assembly's seventy-second session and on the revised elements of commonality and issues for further consideration, circulated on 14 June, as well as on the various positions and proposals made by Member States. As we look to continue our consideration in the next session of the intergovernmental negotiations of the elements of commonality and issues identified for further consideration, we wish to express our hope that Member States will come to see the value of attribution of their positions so as to lay the groundwork for real

negotiations to begin on those points on which there has not as yet been convergence.

In conclusion, let me once again reiterate our appreciation to you, Sir, and to the co-Chairs appointed by you, for the intensive and inclusive efforts to bring about progress in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council at this year's intergovernmental negotiations. We look forward to resuming during the seventy-third session our work on this question, which, we all agree, is of the utmost importance.

**Mr. Polyanskiy** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to you, Mr. President, for the oral technical decision 72/557, on rolling over the item under consideration, on reform of the Security Council, to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

The issue of Security Council reform is one of the most important on the Organization's agenda. We are talking about an organ that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is imbued with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. However, as the current session's discussions have illustrated, fundamental differences on many aspects remain among Member States.

We must be honest with ourselves. Those disagreements are at the heart of the problems faced by the intergovernmental negotiations. Everything else, including negotiating methodology, is secondary, regardless of how some delegations might try to prove otherwise.

Obviously, against the backdrop of the enormous political importance of the issue of Security Council reform, it is necessary to continue searching for a solution that would enjoy much greater support among Member States than the formally required two-thirds majority. The best-case scenario would be a consensus. Such work should be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner, without establishing artificial timelines. In that regard, we note that progress on the reform of the Security Council cannot be achieved by imposing chairs' texts, negotiating documents or any other initiative that fails to enjoy universal support. Previous sessions of the General Assembly have convincingly shown the futility and danger of attempts to reach a solution without considering the entire spectrum of positions.

We firmly believe that the five key issues of Security Council reform must be discussed in their interrelated aspects. Any attempt to single out one particular issue risks diluting the package approach underlying the negotiations agreed upon by all.

We believe that priority for membership of the Security Council should be given to the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are certain that those States have sufficient potential to make a substantial contribution to ensuring international peace and security. It is of primary importance to ensure that future Security Council decisions are balanced and practical.

In concluding, we thank Permanent Representatives Kaha Imnadze of Georgia and Lana Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates for their work. They have ably and responsibly carried out their obligations as co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations process during the current session.

**Mr. Ma Zhaoxu** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The General Assembly just adopted a short technical oral decision (decision 72/557) by consensus to roll over the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform into next year's session.

This year there were five informal meetings of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. The co-Chairs of the negotiations, the Permanent Representatives of the United Arab Emirates and of Georgia, performed their duties under the mandate of decision 62/557, respecting the Member State-driven principle and hearing a broad range of views.

Member States have had candid, in-depth and patient discussions and have increased mutual understanding of the five key issues and their interlinkages in an effort to reach the broadest possible consensus. China commends the President of the General Assembly and co-Chairs on their positive role in the process.

The revised elements of commonalities and issues for further consideration paper is the personal working document of the co-Chairs. It has no official status accorded by the Member States. All documents proposed by the Chairs and co-Chairs of intergovernmental negotiations in recent years in the light of ongoing discussions have reflected the efforts of Member States to advance Security Council reform, providing facilitation and reference for discussions among

Member States. China believes that the four documents are equal in status and should not be treated differently.

The intergovernmental negotiations process is an important mechanism for Member States to discuss Security Council reform. Therefore it must be driven by the Member States to achieve stable development. For years, Member States have been engaged in negotiations and laid out positions, proposals and recommendations that serve as an important basis for the parties to patiently conduct discussions and build consensus. Any attempt to artificially expedite the process or set timelines in that regard will lead to serious disagreement among Member States, which will only serve to aggravate divisions and to undermine efforts and results accumulated over the years, and will contribute nothing to the healthy development of the reform process.

China looks to the next session of the General Assembly to continue to engage in the intergovernmental negotiations in line with the mandate of decision 62/557, to maintain the Member State-driven principle and the package-solution approach and to continue to have broad-based and patient discussions. The goal is to build consensus and keep the intergovernmental negotiations on the right track to achieving the broadest possible consensus and serving the common interests of all Member States and the long-term interests of the United Nations.

**Ms. Nusseibeh** (United Arab Emirates): It is my pleasure to speak today on behalf of the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform.

At the outset, let me join delegations in expressing their appreciation to the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session for his guidance and leadership during the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. We greatly value the trust and confidence that President Lajčák placed in Ambassador Imnadze and me as co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations for this session.

Secondly, once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations, not just for their proactive and constructive engagement in the intergovernmental negotiations and the continued support they have shown for the work of the co-Chairs throughout the session, but also for their commitment to working constructively throughout to achieve progress in the process and to do so in a consensual manner and with respect for each other's positions.

Throughout our time as co-Chairs, we have been reminded that the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform are like no other process in the United Nations. The Security Council, as the body charged with maintaining international peace and security, is oftentimes the most visible measure of the impact of the United Nations in the world as the key organ in the global peace and security architecture. The dynamics of the process need not be explained to anyone in this Hall. Member States harbour no illusions about the complexity, sensitivity, and strategic importance of this issue. But that is precisely the reason we all collectively continue to be committed to the process, knowing that a reform process that enjoys the widest possible support can arise only from careful, considered progress that builds on convergence among all States, one step at a time, towards our end goal.

Acknowledging the complexity of this endeavour, at the outset of our work for this session President Lajčák asked us to achieve meaningful progress and engage in genuine dialogue with all Member States. Throughout our five meetings held this year, we as co-Chairs strived for inclusivity and transparency by regularly consulting with Member States and groups. We aimed to ensure interactivity by establishing the practice of holding interactive segments on the second days of our meetings, structured around a series of questions circulated by the co-Chairs. We believe that that format was helpful in breaking down the cut-and-paste statements of the past. During those sessions, Member States also had opportunities to respond to ideas raised by each other, fostering dialogue that we believe led to a deeper understanding of positions.

The co-Chairs approached the process with no set agenda or pre-cooked solutions for the way forward. We had no preconceived notions as to whether producing another document by the end of the session was the best solution for moving the process forward. At the same time, an overwhelming call was made for the co-Chairs to guide an exercise in the intergovernmental negotiations, whereby we examined the documents referred to in decision 71/553 with a view to identifying necessary improvements and filling in any perceived gaps. We believe that the document we arrived at represents meaningful progress.

The document produced during the seventy-second session builds on the paper, entitled "Elements of commonality and issues for further consideration" from the seventy-first session, while taking into account the relevant positions and proposals made by Member States and reflected in documents circulated during the seventieth and sixty-ninth sessions. It makes an imperfect but first attempt to harmonize that work in one place. We also listened closely to proposals from the floor that aimed to ensure a better reflection of Member States' positions in the paper.

We have heard today Member States express diverging views on the ways and means in which the paper can be further improved, and we fully agree that the work is not done. The road ahead must be pursued with energy and unity of purpose. However, it is the conviction of the co-Chairs that this document is a step in the right direction. It is one that has the potential to bring Member States' positions closer together and to identify pathways for narrowing differences and controversial elements. We trust that the document will aid the work of the co-Chairs to be appointed for the seventy-third session. Kaha and I will do our utmost to ensure the proper continuity of that work and hand-over.

Let me reiterate what a pleasure and honour it has been to serve at the helm of this process. Mr. President, we thank you again for all your support and trust in us as stewards of this process during the seventy-second session. We also thank our colleagues for their support and trust, and we apologize for any shortcomings. Lastly, I would like to thank Ambassador Mudallali of Lebanon for supplying the chocolates that kept my son quiet during my speech.

**The President**: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 122?

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 6.50 p.m. on Thursday, 5 July.*

## Reports of the Fifth Committee

**The President**: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee under agenda items 133, 136, 148 to 154, 156 to 159, 160 (a) and (b), 161 to 165 and 134.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Felipe García Landa of Mexico, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee before the General Assembly in one intervention.

**Mr. García Landa** (Mexico), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee containing recommendations on issues that required action during the second part of the resumed seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

The Fifth Committee met from 7 May to 4 July in the morning and held 14 plenary meetings and numerous rounds of informal consultations, many of them until late at night and early morning, as well as during the weekend.

(*spoke in English*)

In accordance with resolution 49/223 of 23 December 1994, the second part of the resumed session of the Fifth Committee is devoted primarily to the consideration of administrative and budgetary aspects of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and associated issues.

The current session was unusually heavy. In addition to the consideration of 16 peacekeeping operations, the report of the Board of Auditors on peacekeeping operations and various questions related to the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations, the Committee also considered several additional reports, notably those related to the reform of the peace and security pillar and management reform, including on the global service delivery model, accountability and the status of the implementation of the information and communications technology strategy of the United Nations. It also considered financing requests for the United Nations Assistance Missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and a proposed revised budget for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for the biennium 2018-2019.

Let me now introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee containing recommendations on issues that require actions by the General Assembly.

Under agenda item 133, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of

the Board of Auditors", in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/72/572/Add.1, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 136, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019", in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/72/681/Add.2, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution on special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018-20119, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Under agenda item 148, entitled "Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals", in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/72/669.Add.2, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

Under agenda item 149, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations", in paragraph 12 of its report contained in document A/72/917, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following four draft resolutions: draft resolution I, entitled "Rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries"; draft resolution II, entitled "Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda"; draft resolution III, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy"; and draft resolution IV, entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations". All were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

In paragraph 13 of the same report, the Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision that all resolutions relating to the peacekeeping budget and special political missions adopted today be effective 1 July 2018. The draft decision was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

With regard to the draft resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations, I would like to inform the General Assembly that, with the exception of sub-item (b) of agenda item 160, entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the Committee adopted all draft resolutions without a vote.

The reports of the Fifth Committee are presented under the following agenda items: item 150, "Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei", as contained in document A/72/913; item 151, "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic", as contained in document A/72/916; item 152, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire", as contained in document A/72/915; item 153, "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus", as contained in document A/72/904; item 154, "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", as contained in document A/72/907; item 156, "Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti", as contained in document A/72/903; item 157, "Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo", as contained in document A/72/909; item 158, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia", as contained in document A/72/914; item 159, "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali", as contained in document A/72/908; sub-item (a) of agenda item 160, "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East, Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", as contained in A/72/906; item 161, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan", as contained in document A/72/911; item 162, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", as contained in document A/72/910; item 163, "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur", as contained in document A/72/671/Add. 1; item 164, "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)", as contained in A/72/912; and item 165, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti", as contained in document A/72/670/Add. 1.

With regard to sub-item (b) of agenda item 160, entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/72/905. The Committee considered the draft resolution, as orally amended, and decided to retain the fourth preambular paragraph and the existing operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 by a single recorded vote. In paragraph 11 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, as

orally amended, which the Committee adopted by a recorded vote.

Under agenda item 134, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", in paragraph 10 of its report contained in document A/72/682/Add.2, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions: draft resolution I, entitled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations", and draft resolution II, entitled "Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat". The Committee adopted both without a vote. In paragraph 11 of the same report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision on questions deferred for future consideration. The Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote.

Finally, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of an oral draft decision that all resolutions relating to the peacekeeping budget and special political missions adopted today would be effective as of 1 July 2018.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

I would like to thank delegations for their cooperation during the session and for the spirit of agreement they showed, which allowed the Committee to conclude its duties on time. I would also like to thank the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Tommo Monthe, for his guidance during our work, as well as the secretariat of the Fifth Committee for its ongoing support.

I wish to publicly acknowledge my colleagues in the Bureau — Abbas Yazdani of Iran, Haseeb Gohar of Pakistan, Julie O'Brien of Ireland, and Anda Grinbera of Latvia, as well as Katlego Mmalane of Botswana, who supported the Chair during the session — for their camaraderie, professionalism and good faith. I would also like to thank them for their friendship and good humour during the most difficult moments. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

I would like to wish the delegations a wonderful summer break.

**The President**: I thank the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee.

Before proceeding further, I would like to emphasize to delegations that, as the Fifth Committee concluded its work this afternoon, the relevant reports before the Assembly today are available in English only. It is my understanding that they will be issued in all the official languages as soon as possible. I thank members for their understanding.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

*It was so decided.*

**The President**: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations on the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I further remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committee, unless the secretariat is notified to the contrary in advance. That means that, where recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

**Agenda item 133** (*continued*)

**Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/572/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the

text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.32.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/8 B).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 133.

**Agenda item 136** (*continued*)

**Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/681/Add.2)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.52.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/262 C).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 136.

**Agenda item 148** (*continued*)

**Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/669/Add.2)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.34.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/258 B).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 148.

**Agenda item 149**

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/917)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it four draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report and a draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 13 of its report. We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I through IV and the draft decision one by one.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries", the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.33. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft resolution I was adopted* (resolution 72/285).

**The President**: Draft resolution II is entitled "Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda", the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.48. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution II was adopted* (resolution 72/286).

**The President**: Draft resolution III is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy", the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.49. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution III was adopted* (resolution 72/287).

**The President**: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations", the text of which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.55. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution IV was adopted* (resolution 72/288).

**The President**: The draft decision is entitled "Effective date of resolutions relating to the peacekeeping budget and special political missions". The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 72/558).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 149.

**Agenda item 150**

**Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/913)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.47.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/289).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 150.

**Agenda item 151**

**Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/916)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.54.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/290).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 151.

**Agenda item 152**

**Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/915)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.51.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/291).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 152.

**Agenda item 153**

**Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/904)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.38.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/292).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 153.

**Agenda item 154**

**Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/908)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the

text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.41.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/293).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 154.

**Agenda item 156**

**Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/903)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.36.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/294).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 156.

**Agenda item 157**

**Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/909)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.42.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/295).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 157.

**Agenda item 158**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/914)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.50.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/296).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 158.

**Agenda item 159**

**Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/907)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.40.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/297).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 159.

**Agenda item 160**

**Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East**

**(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/906)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. For the time being, the

text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.39.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

**Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic): The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established by Security Council resolution 350 (1974), which separated the Syrian forces and the Israeli occupying forces in the occupied Syrian Golan following the war of October 1973. The main reason for the establishment and continuation of the Force was the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan in 1967. Since then, Israel has refused the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions of international legitimacy with regard to that issue, which called for full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. That means that the presence of UNDOF will conclude with the end of the occupation and the implementation of relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic has reiterated its position several times in rejecting the attempts of some well-known delegations to politicize UNDOF's mandate. During the two months of informal negotiations, those delegations refused to accept our legitimate proposal meant to avoid a vote and reach a consensual resolution, as we used to have in previous years in the Fifth Committee.

For that reason, my delegation submits an oral amendment to add the following paragraph after paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39, on UNDOF:

> "Takes note of paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee and decides to abolish two international temporary positions in the Office of the Force Commander and Head of Mission for one Special Adviser (P-5) and one Mission Liaison Officer (P-4), and further decides not to approve the five general temporary assistance positions to be converted to international posts to strengthen the Security Section."

My delegation respectfully urges all Member States to adopt this proposal by consensus, and if some delegations intend to object, I urge them once again to vote in favour of the inclusion of this paragraph.

Finally, Syria emphasizes that this is not a matter of argument on functions or posts. Rather, it is an essential concern of the existence of the peacekeeping mission on Syria's territories, which should be taken into account. The proposal submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic is based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of peacekeeping operations from the beginning.

**The President**: The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic has submitted an oral amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39, recommended in the report of the Fifth Committee. In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the Assembly will first take a decision on the oral amendment submitted by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

*A recorded vote has been requested.*

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against*:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand,

Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

*The oral amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39 was rejected by 53 votes to 10, with 50 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegations of Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote against.]

**The President**: Since the oral amendment submitted by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic was not adopted, we will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/298).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 160.

**(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/905)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. For the time being, the text of the draft resolution is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.31, as orally revised.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

I give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to speak in explanation of vote before the vote.

**Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic): My delegation joins the consensus on the adoption of resolution 72/298, on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Our delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, based on the confirmed principle that the responsibility for financing those two Forces must be borne by Israel, the occupying Power, which caused their establishment. Our position is in line with the basic principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV), of 27 June 1963.

**The President**: A single separate vote has been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution, based on the paragraph numbers in document A/C.5/72/L.31.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 were retained by 74 votes to 3, with 47 abstentions.*

[Subsequently, the delegation of Bhutan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegations of Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to abstain.]

**The President**: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole, as orally revised.

*A recorded vote was requested.*

*In favour*:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Canada, Israel, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Guatemala

*The draft resolution as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 125 votes to 3, with 1 abstention* (resolution 72/299).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Bhutan, Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 160.

**Agenda item 161**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/911)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.44.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/300).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 161.

**Agenda item 162**

**Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/910)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.43.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/301).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 162.

**Agenda item 163** (*continued*)

**Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/671/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.45.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/259 B).

**The President**: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 163.

**Agenda item 164**

**Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/912)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.46.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/302).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 164.

**Agenda item 165** (*continued*)

**Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/670/Add.1)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/72/L.37.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 72/260 B).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 165.

**Agenda item 134** (*continued*)

**Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations**

**Report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/682/Add.2)**

**The President**: The Assembly has before it two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report and a draft decision recommended in paragraph 11 of the same report. We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I and II and on the draft decision, one by one.

We shall now turn to draft resolution I, entitled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations", the text of which is contained for the time being in document A/C.5/72/L.53. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

*Draft resolution I was adopted* (resolution 72/266 B).

**The President**: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution II, entitled "Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat", the text of which is contained for the time being in document A/C.5/72/L.35. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*Draft resolution II was adopted* (resolution 72/303).

**The President**: The Assembly will now turn to the draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration", the text of which is contained for the time being in document A/C.5/72/L.56. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 72/547 C).

**The President**: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 134.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee before it for this meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge members' hard work and dedication. This second resumed session of the Fifth Committee handled a very important agenda of unprecedented weight. Members have shown the ability to tackle complex issues and to exercise the spirit of compromise and flexibility so as to reach consensual outcomes, and they have done so through many long days and nights. Their hard work and dedication, often well into the late night and early morning hours, are more than admirable. They have helped to strengthen multilateralism and equip the United Nations with the tools necessary for better delivery on its work. They should all be very proud. I thank them and offer my congratulations.

*The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.*